



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

Town Council Committee of the Whole

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Mayor James L. Streeter, Councilors Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Paulann H. Sheets, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

7:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Streeter called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Watson
Members Absent: Councilor Johnson

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger and Executive Assistant Nicki Bresnayan.

3. Calendar and Communications

Town Manager Oefinger noted that the Town Attorney would be arriving shortly. He asked the Committee of the Whole to suspend the rules to add 2010-0005 Pending Litigation to the agenda to discuss 23 Library Street.

4. Approval of Minutes

2010-0065 Approval of Minutes (Committee of the Whole)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council Committee of the Whole meetings of February 23, 2010 and March 9, 2010 are hereby accepted and approved.

A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, to adopt.

The motion carried unanimously

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Johnson arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Watson

2010-0021 Labor Negotiations (2010 Standing Referral)

A motion was made by Mayor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Sheets, to enter executive session at 7:05 p.m. to discuss 2010-0021 Labor Negotiations, and to invite the Town Manager, Joyce Sauchuk, and Doug Ackerman to attend.

The motion carried unanimously

Discussed

Town Attorney Mike Carey arrived and the Council exited executive session on 2010-0021 Labor Negotiations.

2010-0005 Pending Litigation (2010 Standing Referral)

A motion was made by Mayor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, to suspend the rules to add

2010-0005 Pending Litigation to the agenda.

The motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by Mayor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Sheets, to enter executive session at 7:07 p.m. to discuss Pending Litigation (23 Library Street), and to invite the Town Manager and Town Attorney Mike Carey to attend.

The motion carried unanimously

Discussed

The executive session concluded at 7:43 p.m.

2010-0021 Labor Negotiations (2010 Standing Referral)

A motion was made by Mayor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, to enter executive session at 7:46 p.m. to discuss 2010-0021 Labor Negotiations, and to invite the Town Manager, Joyce Sauchuk, and Doug Ackerman to attend.

The motion carried unanimously

Discussed

The executive session concluded at 8:07 p.m.

2010-0068 Got Breakfast? Foundation Silent Hero Grant

Discussed

Joyce Sauchuk, Manager of Labor Relations/Risk Management, explained that the Town was recently notified of a grant opportunity that relates to the Summer Food Program and involves expanding the breakfast program. The Summer Food Program was previously run by Human Services, but since the sites are run in conjunction with the Summer Playground program, it is being transitioned to Parks and Recreation. The Town's goal is to expand the program again this year.

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0069 Summer Food Service Program (2010)

Discussed

Joyce Sauchuk, Manager of Labor Relations/Risk management, explained this grant is to operate the Summer Food Program. For every breakfast and lunch meal served, the Town is reimbursed by the state. The program was very successful last year and staff recommends continuing the program. Ms. Sauchuk noted that only Catherine Kolnaski and West Side qualify for this program at this point in time. However, since Claude Chester and William Seely were certified last year, they will be on the list for three more years before recertification is necessary. At that time, the Town will have to deal with the effects of school redistricting on the summer food program.

A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

2006-0100 Thames Street Rehabilitation Study

Discussed

Mayor Streeter contacted Mayor Popp and asked him to provide the Council with a detailed breakdown of the City's budget request for Thames Street retaining walls, but it has not been received to date. The Town Manager noted that the Council must decide at budget time what, if anything, needs to be funded. Generally, that large a project should be bonded and not paid for with cash. In addition, there are implications associated with phasing the project that should be discussed. If the Council decides not to fund the project in the budget, and the Council chooses to take the project back to the voters, that process will have to start soon after the budget process concludes. The Town Manager has placed a Thames Street project "placeholder" in the CIP for

the full dollar amount. Mayor Streeter noted that he is interested in an evaluation of the retaining walls from a safety standpoint. The Town Manager noted that there are costs associated with phasing as well as timing considerations. Councilor O'Beirne noted that the City's CIP denotes both General Obligation Bonds and Town funds as sources so there is an inconsistency. Any amount over \$750,000 requires a referendum.

2006-0282 School Improvement Project - Phase II

Discussed

The Town Manager explained that the Phase II School Design Committee has wrapped up their efforts. The final report has been received, but the transmittal letter has not been completed. The letter will be forwarded to the Council as soon as the Chairman, John Scott, has signed it.

2009-0248 FYE 2011 Budget

Discussed

The Town Manager distributed a revised Budget Review Calendar. A third date with the Board of education has been proposed for April 12th, with other adjustments being made to more evenly balance the accounts.

Councilor Peruzzotti stated that she has put a lot of time and energy into attending the Board of Education budget sessions and she is distressed that the third meeting will be held on a date that she is out of town. She asked the Council to consider other options such as eliminating the third meeting or finding another time. Councilor Monteiro feels a full complement of Councilors should be present when the Board of Education budget is voted on. She suggested April 21st at 5:30 p.m. before the RTM meeting or on April 20th at 6:00 p.m. before the Town Council meeting. The Town Manager stated he would speak with Superintendent Paul Kadri.

2009-0305 Council Goalsetting

Discussed

Councilor Johnson distributed a revised version of the goal on economic development. All Councilors agreed to the wording of the goal.

A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

7. Consideration of Committee Referral Items as per Town Council Referral List

None.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Streeter reminded Councilors of the Senior Center Ribbon Cutting on Saturday, March 27th and the Budget Public Hearing on Monday, March 29th. The Chamber of Commerce State of the City and Town of Groton Luncheon will be held on Friday, March 26th. Councilor Flax reminded the public that the budget is available on line or copies can be purchased.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.